

## Sustainable Development

OCE's director of sustainable development works to integrate the principals of sustainable development into the Department's policies and programs, ensuring that economic, social, and environmental considerations are balanced in decisionmaking. The director also directs and coordinates the Department's domestic and international policies and programs in sustainable development, including sustainable agriculture, forestry, and rural communities.

The World Wide Web address for this office is <http://www.usda.gov/oce/osfsd/index.htm>

## Global Change Program Office

Global climate change, whether from natural causes or human activity, could have important consequences for farming, forestry, and rural areas. The Global Change Program Office functions as the USDA-wide coordinator of global change program and policy issues facing the Department. The Office coordinates activities with other agencies, interacts with the legislative branch on climate change issues, and represents USDA in international climate change discussions. It also is a source of objective assessment of the economic effects of climate change and proposed mitigation strategies on agriculture and forestry.

The World Wide Web address for this office is <http://www.usda.gov/oce/oce/gcpo/index.htm>

## Office of Energy Policy and New Uses

The Office of Energy Policy and New Uses assists with development of departmental energy policy and coordination of departmental energy programs and strategies. The Office provides economic analysis on energy policy issues, coordinates USDA energy-related activities within and outside the Department, and studies the feasibility of new uses of agricultural products.

The World Wide Web address for this office is <http://www.usda.gov/oce/oepnu/index.htm>

## ■ Office of Inspector General

USDA's Office of Inspector General (OIG), the first civilian OIG in the Federal Government, was established in 1962 and became fully operational in 1963. OIG conducts and supervises audits and evaluations, as well as investigations and law enforcement efforts relating to USDA's programs and operations. It provides leadership and coordination and recommends policies for activities that will prevent and detect fraud and abuse and promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in USDA programs and operations. Furthermore, OIG keeps the Secretary and Congress fully informed of problems and deficiencies related to administration of USDA programs and operations, and of the actions designed to correct such problems and deficiencies.

During fiscal year 1999, audit and investigative efforts resulted in approximately \$262 million in questioned costs and \$68 million in fines, restitutions, other recoveries, and penalties. Management agreed to put an additional \$114 million to better use and recover more than \$55 million. Investigative efforts resulted in 782 indictments and 560 convictions.

OIG continued work on three Presidential initiatives to improve the efficiency of three USDA programs. A nationwide cooperative effort by OIG and the Rural Housing Service identified over \$4.3 million in misused funds at Rural Rental Housing apartment complexes operated by 20 owners and management agents; 10 cases are under investigation. Schemes included double-charging apartment complexes for management-related expenses and charging apartment complexes for personal expenses of the owner or management agent. In addition, 145 apartment complexes had serious physical deterioration, 215 needed minor repairs, and 50 had conditions that posed a health and safety hazard to tenants.

Operation “Kiddie Care” is still finding a high level of fraud in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The 22 sponsoring organizations terminated from the program had been receiving \$45.4 million in program funds annually. In 1 Ohio case, 11 persons have been implicated in a conspiracy to illegally obtain more than \$1.1 million in CACFP funds. Nine of the individuals have been indicted, and seven have pled guilty and have been sentenced to as much as 2 years 9 months of incarceration and restitution of \$790,000.

Operation Talon was designed and implemented by OIG to locate and apprehend fugitives, many of them violent offenders, who are current or former food stamp recipients, and was made possible by legislative changes in welfare reform. This nationwide initiative has been expanded to include a total of 42 metropolitan areas in 23 States, and the total number of arrests through Operation Talon has climbed to about 5,600, as a result of joint OIG/State and local law enforcement operations. The fugitives arrested during Operation Talon have included dangerous felons wanted for murder, child molestation, rape, and kidnapping, and over one-third of those arrested were sought in connection with violent crimes or illegal drug activity.

## ■ Office of the Chief Information Officer

The Chief Information Officer is the Department’s senior information technology official. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) supports program delivery in USDA by planning, directing, and coordinating the Department’s information and technology resources.

In accordance with the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 and similar legislation, regulations, and executive orders, OCIO provides long-range-planning guidance, reviews all major technology investments to ensure that they are economical and effective, coordinates interagency Information Resources Management projects, and promotes information exchange and technical interoperability.

OCIO also provides telecommunications and automated data processing (ADP) services to USDA agencies through its Telecommunications Services and Operations